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Application No. 10/646988 (Docket: CNTR.2209)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 01/08/2007
Reply to Office Action of 10/18/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-22 are pending in the application. The Examiner additionally stated that claims 1-22 are rejected. By this amendment, all claims stand as previously provided. Hence, claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments.

In the Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to perfect a priority claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 by providing reference to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/415942, filed on 10/03/2002. During a routine annual review, it was found that the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.178(a)(2) to the prior-filed provisional application was not provided at the time of filing, nor was its omission detected upon examination of the filing receipt. Applicant asserts that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date of this filing was unintentional.

In the Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mittal et al., U.S. Patent No. 5719800 (hereinafter, Mittal) in view of Lippert et al., U.S. Patent No. 7017061 (hereinafter, Lippert). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Contingent upon grant of Applicant's co-filed petition, and in view of the above amendment to the specification perfecting the priority benefit claim to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/415942, filed on 10/03/2002, it is respectfully asserted that Lippert, whose filing date is 05/21/2003, is obviated as a reference, and it is therefore requested that the rejections of claims 1-22 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments advance above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested, and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Applicant earnestly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning this amendment, the application, or allowance of any claims thereof.

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8 that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date of signature shown below.
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Respectfully submitted,
HUFFMAN PATENT GROUP, LLC

/ Richard K. Huffman /

By: _____

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01 / 08 / 2007

Date: _____